

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 268162

47

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: AF:MLGARRISON

APPROVED BY: AF:TWSEELYE

S/S-MR SHANKLE

----- 034755

O 301611Z OCT 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 268162

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 8505 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 29 OCT

QTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 8505

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: EVENTS OF OCT 28

FOR SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

1. THE BRITISH MISSION HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE  
EVENTS OF THE FIRST DAY.

2. THE MORNING OF OCT 28 WAS TAKEN UP WITH A CONTINUING DEBATE  
BETWEEN THE BRITISH, MUGABE AND NKOMO OVER THE QUESTIONS OF A  
BRITISH MINISTER CHAIRING THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
AND BRITAIN'S COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN RHODESIA. MUGABE  
AND NKOMO INDICATED THAT UNLESS THESE QUESTIONS WERE SATISFACTORILY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 268162

RESOLVED THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE OPENING SESSION OF

THE CONFERENCE. AT 1:30, BACKED BY A SMALL GROUP OF ADVISORS, THEY CALLED ON IVOR RICHARD AND WENT OVER THE GROUND IN DETAIL. IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO THE BRITISH WHETHER THESE SUBJECTS WERE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OR WHETHER THEY WERE ONES WHICH PRESENTED THE DELEGATIONS WITH REAL INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

3. THE BRITISH WERE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE SECOND ANALYSIS AND THEIR SENSE OF THE MATTER WAS CONFIRMED BY SALIM OF TANZANIA, MOGWE OF BOTSWANA AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT. A MEMBER OF MUGAGE'S DELEGATION TOLD A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH TEAM SHORTLY BEFORE RICHARD'S MEETING THAT "IT IS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT HOW BRITAIN PLAYS ITS HAND. SOME DELEGATIONS HAVE REAL PROBLEMS WITH THIS ISSUE. MY DELEGATION HAS SPECIAL PROBLEMS."

4. AT NO TIME DURING THE MORNING OR AT THE 1:15 MEETING DID THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS COME UP. BOTH DELEGATIONS HAVE MENTIONED THIS IN PUBLIC AND THE PRESS HAS REFERRED TO IT FREQUENTLY.

5. DURING THE 1:15 MEETING RICHARD AGREED TO PROVIDE A DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD SET OUT HIS AUTHORITY AND BRITAIN'S INTENTIONS IN RHODESIA. NKOMO AND MUGABE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY ATTEND THE CONFERENCE ON THE BASIS OF THE DOCUMENT AND ALLOWED THAT THEY DID NOT EVEN HAVE TO HAVE THE DOCUMENT BY THE TIME THE MEETING OPENED. THEY REALIZED RICHARD HAD TO CONSULT WITH LONDON. THE MEETING BROKE UP AT 3:05 AND RICHARD DECIDED TO RESCHEDULE THE CONFERENCE FOR 5:00 P.M.

6. ALL THE DELEGATIONS SAVE THAT OF MUZOREWA ARRIVED AT 5:00. FOR A BRIEF MOMENT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHY MUZOREWA HAD FAILED TO APPEAR. HE DID SO 20 MINUTES LATER AND EXPLAINED THAT GENEVA'S RUSH HOUR HAD SLOWED HIM DOWN.

7. THE DELEGATIONS TOOK THEIR SEATS AROUND THE CONFERENCE TABLES WHICH ARE SET OUT IN A SQUARE. RICHARD WITH THE TWO BRITISH AIDES, HELD ONE END OF THE SQUARE AND ACROSS FROM HIM SAT SMITH WITH TWO MEMBERS ON EITHER SIDE. ON RICHARD'S RIGHT, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE ARE SEATED. ON RICHARD'S LEFT MUGABE AND NKOMO. THERE WERE AND WILL BE NO NAMEPLATES, EXCEPT THOSE WHICH THE MUZOREWA DELEGATION HAD PUT UP THEMSELVES IN FRONT OF THE CHAIRS ON THE BISHOP'S

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 268162

RIGHT AND LEFT. THEY CARRY THE NAMES OF THE MISSING EDISON SITHOLE (WHO THE BRITISH BELIEVE IS DEAD) AND THE IMPRISONED ENOS NKALA.

8. RICHARD SPOKE FOR 20 MINUTES AND THEN ADJOURNED THE CONFERENCE. THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS BEGAN TO MOVE TOWARD THE EXIT. AS THEY DID SO SMITH AND HIS DELEGATION ROSE AND MOVED TOWARDS THE SAME EXIT. IN A PARTICULARLY POIGNANT MOMENT THE AFRICANS STOPPED,

FELL SILENT AND STOOD AT ALMOST DUTIFUL RESPECT AS THE WHITE PRIME MINISTER WALKED OUT. AS SOON AS HE LEFT, THE AFRICAN DELEGATES BEGAN MIXING WITH EACH OTHER WITHOUT RESPECT TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION; OLD FRIENDS AND ADVERSARIES GREETED EACH OTHER, SHOOK HANDS AND CHATTED MERRILY.

9. IVOR RICHARD SUMMONED THE OBSERVERS TO MEET AND HAVE A DRINK WITH HIM. HE WINNOWNED OUT UNWANTED OBSERVERS LIKE WALTER OF MAURITIUS UNTIL HE HAD A CORE GROUP COMPOSED OF CHONA, SALIM AND THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVE.

10. RICHARD PRODUCED A DRAFT WHICH LONDON HAD APPROVED, SPELLING OUT HIS AUTHORITIES AS CHAIRMAN AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GREAT BRITIAN. THE OBSERVERS FIRST RECOMMEND NKOMO AND MUGAVE NOT BE GIVEN A PIECE OF PAPER. AFTER RICHARD REVIEWED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH NKOMO AND MUGABE THEY AGREED HE SHOULD FURNISH A DOCUMENT, BUT THAT IT SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A PERSONAL LETTER FROM CROSLAND. RICHARD WAS SENT TO NKOMO AND MUGABE. IF THEY ASK, IT WILL ALSO BE SENT TO MUZOREWA AND SITHOLD WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PARTIES TO THIS DISPUTE. IN GENERAL, THE LETTER MAKES THE POINTS THAT RICHARD IS THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WITH DIRECT AUTHORITY FROM THE CABINET, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS ULTIMATE COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT IT IS EMBARKING ON THE CONFERENCE AS THE FIRST STEP OF DECOLONIZATION.

11. THE LANGUAGE IS NOT WHAT NKOMO WANTED. IT IS LESS CLEAR WHAT MUGABE WANTS. THE BRITISH FEEL THAT  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04     STATE 268162

IT WILL BE HARD TO MOVE THE CABINET MUCH FURTHER AND THE OBSERVERS JUDGE THAT THE BRITISH SHOULD STAND BY THEIR LETTER ON A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT BASIS. AS OF OCT 29 THE OUTCOME OF THIS ISSUE REMAINS UNRESOLVED BUT THE BRITISH ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC.

12. THE CONFERENCE RECONVENES AT 10:30 A.M.  
OCT 29. NKOMO HAS ASKED TO SPEAK FIRST AND RICHARD WILL ADOPT THE UNITED NATIONS RULE OF "FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED." SITHOLE HAS ASKED TO SPEAK LAST AS HAS SMITH KKK. THROUGHOUT HIS CONSULTATIONS RICHARD HAS ENCOURAGED MODERATION. AS YOU WILL RECALL, SMITH INFORMED ME HIS SPEECH WILL BE SHORT AND WILL PRESENT NO PROBLEMS FOR US. MUZOREWA TOLD ME THAT HIS STATEMENT WILL BE FACTUAL. NKOMO REPORTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE

NEED FOR MODERATION. I CAN MAKE NO PREDICTION ABOUT  
SITHOLD AND MUGABE.

13. ONCE THE FORMAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE RICHARD  
IS CONSIDERING GIVING EACH DELEGATION THE RIGHT OF  
REPLY. I HAVE INFORMED THE BRITISH I CONSIDER THIS  
TO BE A MISTAKE AND WILL SEE RICHARD SHORTLY TO MAKE  
THE POINT AGAIN AND URGE HIM TO ADJOURN ONCE THE  
FORMAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

14. RICHARD WILL CONDUCT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS  
ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 AND 2. CATTO UNQTE  
KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE268162  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF:MLGARRISON  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** N760007-0875  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 2  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976101/aaaaaajs.tel  
**Line Count:** 182  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: EVENTS OF OCT 28 FOR SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, RH, (MUGABE, ROBERT), (NKOMO, ROBERT), (SMITH, IAN), (RICHARD, IVOR)  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006